



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 4  
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER  
61 FORSYTH STREET  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

August 19, 2013

Randall Overton, Bridge Management Specialist  
Environmental Project Manager and Reviewer  
Seventh Coast Guard District  
909 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue –Suite 432  
Miami, FL 33131-3050

Subject: Proposed New Bridge Across the Manatee River, Manatee County, Florida, Draft  
Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)  
Docket Number: USCG-2010-0455, CEQ Number: 20130195  
ERP Number: CGD-E50294-FL

Dear Mr. Overton:

Thank you for your interagency coordination efforts on a proposed project. Pursuant to Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the US EPA Region 4 has evaluated the consequences of the US Coast Guard proposal to construct a new bridge across the Manatee River, in Manatee County, Florida. The project proposes constructing a two lane bridge to cross the Manatee River.

The proposed project examines three alternatives, including a no build. The two build alternatives include one new two-lane bridge, mid-level fixed span at Fort Hamer Road, and a second with two-lane addition to an existing bridge on Rye Road.

Enclosed are comments on the DEIS. Based on our review of the DEIS, EPA assigned a rating of "EC-2" to the document. Our review has identified some environmental concerns with the need for some additional information in the DEIS. With either build alternative the USEPA will further evaluate the wetland mitigation through the federal permitting process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS. If you have questions on our comments or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Maher Budeir at (404) 562-9514 or [budeir.maher@epa.gov](mailto:budeir.maher@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

Heinz J. Mueller, Chief  
NEPA Program Office  
Office of Environmental Accountability

Enclosure 1: Comments on the Proposed New Bridge Across the Manatee River DEIS.

**Enclosure 1: EPA Detailed Comments****Proposed New Bridge Across the Manatee River, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**

---

Based on our review of the DEIS, US EPA's environmental concerns are related to the footprint of the Rye Road alternative evaluated, and the construction methods and BMPs implemented during the construction of the bridge.

***Rye Road Alternative:***

This Alternative proposes a widening of a 10+ mile segment of a road and the addition of a two-lane bridge across the Manatee River. The conceptual design and typical section shows a total width of 110' of ROW. Since this alternative widens a road segment that is more than 10 mile, minimizing the foot print can significantly reduce the impact. It is recommended to examine other alternate sections that can accommodate a 4-lane road. Alternate sections may include ones with narrower median. It is recommended to investigate the possibility of reducing the footprint of this proposed roadway while keeping the capacity near the target VMTs .

***Construction Method and BMPs for the Fort Hamer Alternative:***

EPA recommends including more details and specifics regarding construction methods and protection measures, especially for the Fort Hamer Road new bridge Alternative. Since the new bridge will be significantly longer (2,570 feet), it is necessary to elaborate on the construction methods and techniques, on how materials will be transported to the site, and what additional specific measures and BMPs will be in place to minimize impact on the wetlands and aquatic resources in the area. Quantifying impacts on these resources can differ significantly with different construction techniques.